

Layers of Security in K-12



Penn-Harris-Madison School Corporation is Making it Happen!



WE ARE a K-12 public school corporation located in northern Indiana. The Community is considered suburban, encompassing 135 square miles. During the 2015-2016 school year, Penn-Harris-Madison School Corporation educated 10,720 students at Penn High School, our three middle schools, and eleven elementary schools.

OUR STUDENTS & FAMILIES are an integral part of P-H-M's "Triangle of Success" that connects our students, teachers, and parents.

LAYERS OF SECURITY are an important component to student and staff safety implemented in all 15 of our schools. The security layers begin with our entrances and access controls. Other security layers include internal corridors and panic buttons locking off our learning communities. Finally, classroom security and training is critical. We have an ongoing commitment to school safety and have taken a leadership role in education and training.

OUR PROMISING PRACTICE incorporates a three (3) layer approach to student and staff safety. Providing a safe and secure learning environment is the highest priority for our school district. It is important to create a culture of safety in our schools and classrooms; safe learning environments foster student growth and educational excellence.

OUR STEPS School Districts around the country are attempting to find solutions for potential threats to students, staff and patrons. Penn-Harris-Madison School Corporation is no different. Penn-Harris-Madison School Corporation has worked with first responders, architects, fire marshals, vendors, school administration and stakeholders to provide a layered approach to school safety and security. By leveraging technology and establishing three (3) layers of security to protect staff and students, P-H-M is giving the schools an advantage in an active shooter or other threatening situation. The goal is to prevent or slow down a threat and decrease police response time resulting in saved lives. Key components include entrance electronic access controls, window security film, visitor management, internal electronic corridor security, remote panic devices, classroom internal door latch and emergency training. Additional components include layers of communication creating interoperability with first response agencies and remote video access.

P-H-M believes in a layered approach to school safety and security. These promising practices have been promoted by Security Today Magazine and 'Security Layers in K-12 Schools' will be featured in the School & University Publication in August 2016 for Outstanding Design in Commons Areas.

IN OUR OWN WORDS

"You can't educate children unless they feel safe and secure... school safety is the School Corporation's #1 priority," P-H-M Superintendent Dr. Jerry Thacker. Noted in the November 2013 issue of 'Campus Security & Life Safety' magazine, P-H-M was highlighted in the feature "Standing Above the Rest."

For more information, visit phmschools.org/safety or email: mseger@phm.k12.in.us